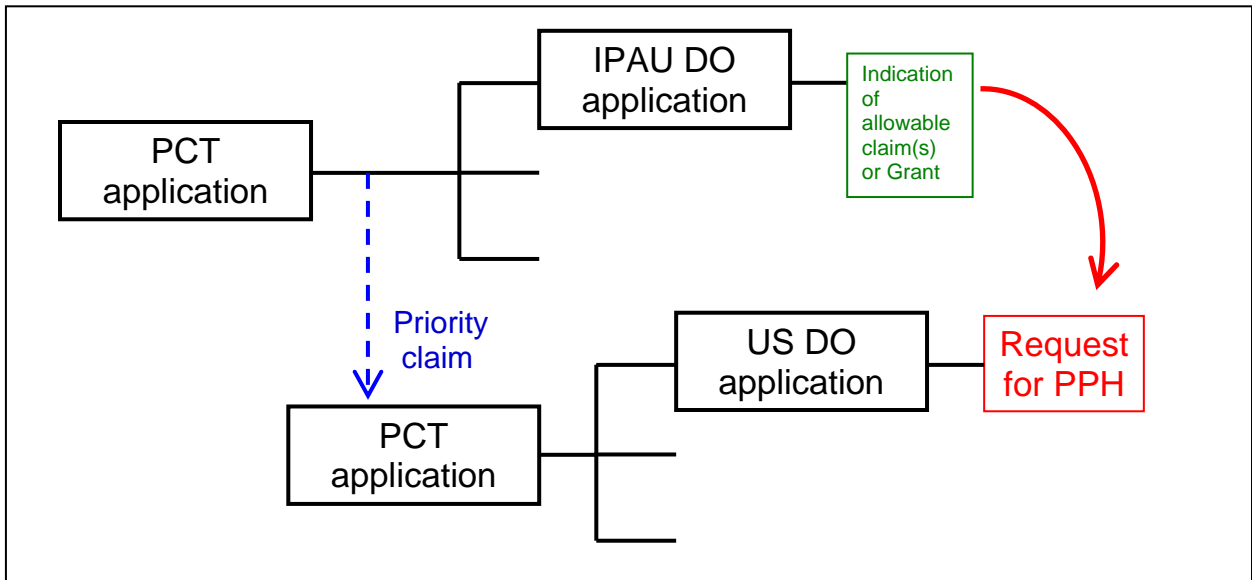
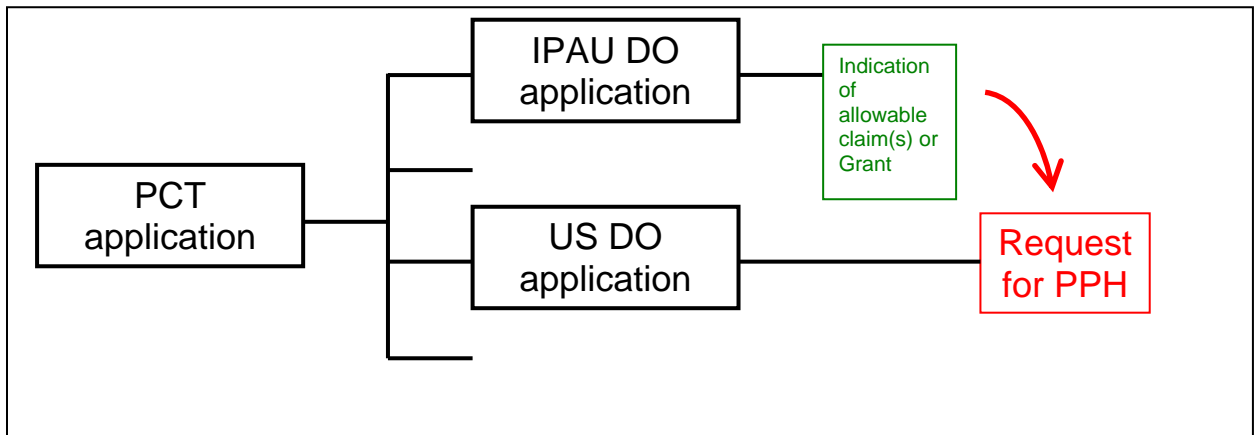


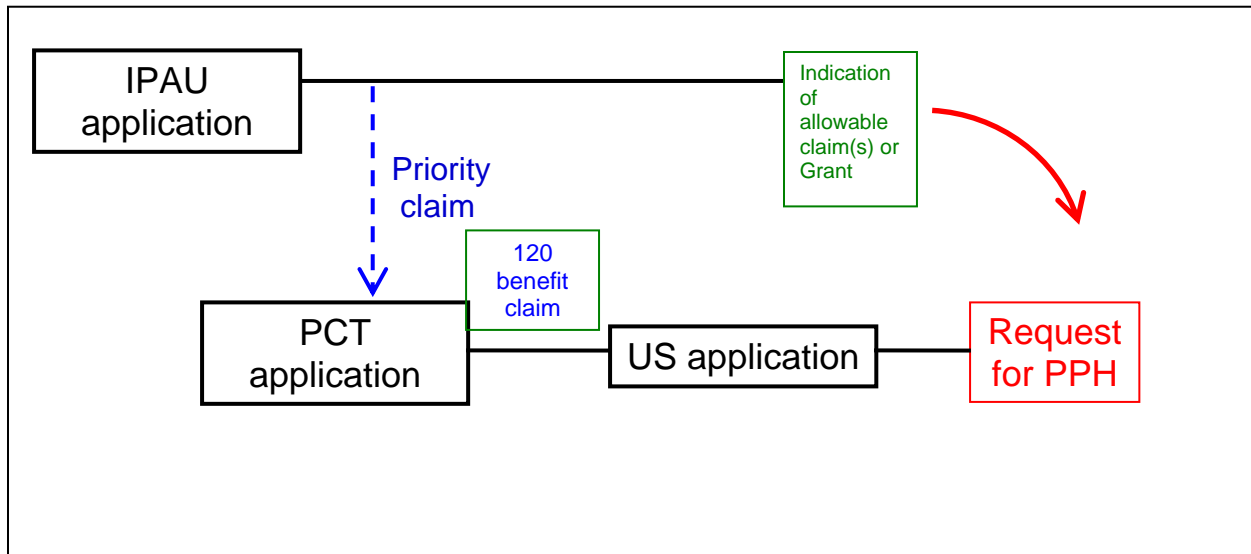
(1)(b)(ii):



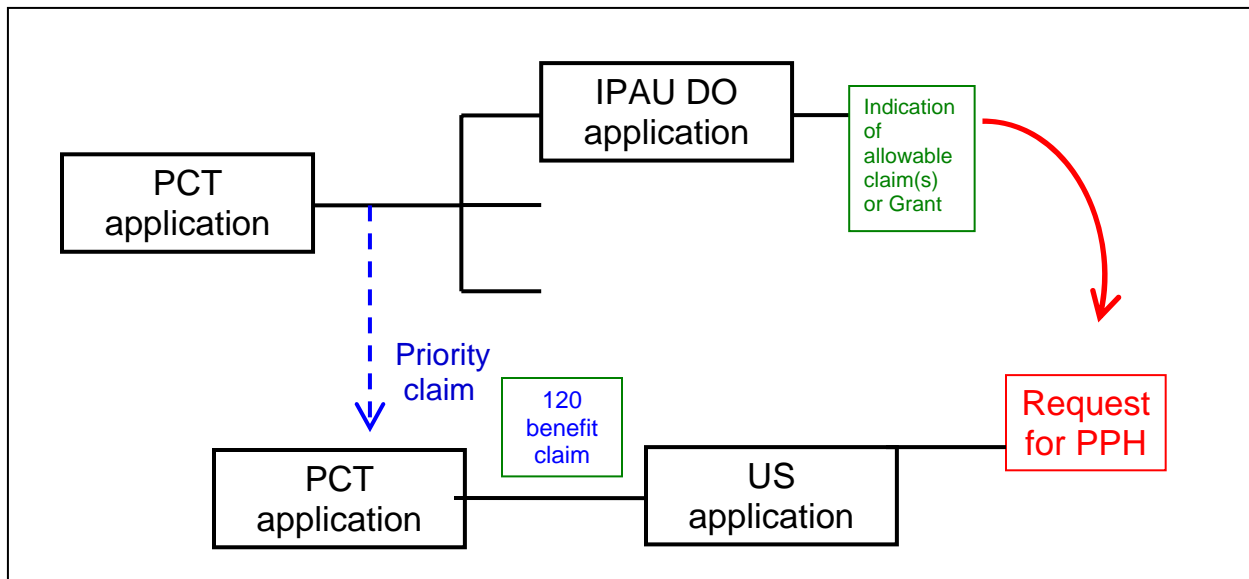
(1)(b)(iii):



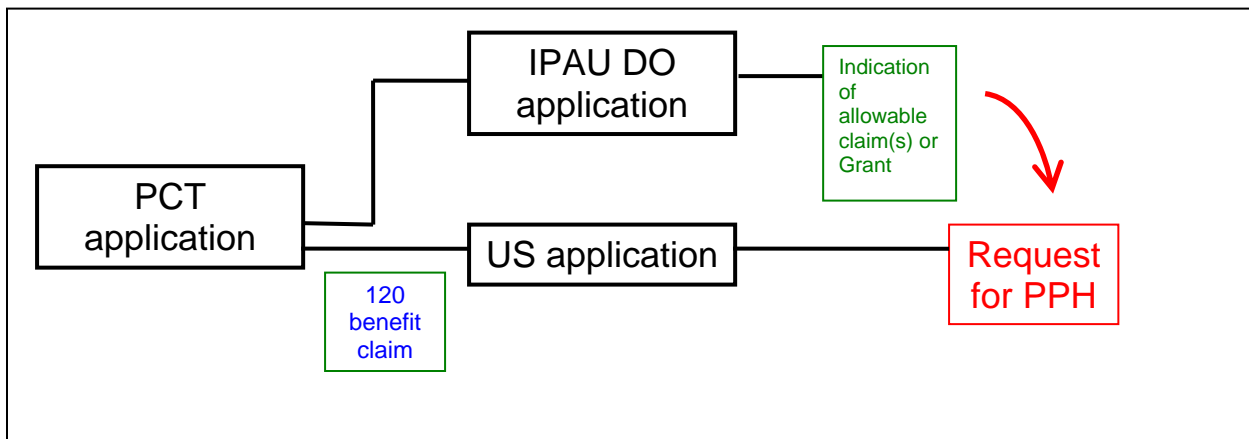
(1)(c)(i):



(1)(c)(ii):



(1)(c)(iii):



Provisional applications, plant and design applications, reissue applications, reexamination proceedings, and applications subject to a secrecy order are excluded and not subject to participation in the PPH.

(2) The IPAU application(s) has at least one claim that was determined by IPAU to be allowable. Applicant must submit a copy of the allowable claims from the IPAU application(s). If the IPAU office action does not explicitly state that a particular claim is allowable, applicant must include a statement in the request for participation in the PPH pilot program that no rejection has been made in the IPAU office action regarding that claim and therefore, the claim is deemed allowable by IPAU.

(3) All the claims in each U.S. application for which a request for participation in the PPH pilot program is made must sufficiently correspond or be amended to sufficiently correspond to the allowable claims in the IPAU application(s). Claims will be considered to sufficiently correspond where, accounting for differences due to claim format requirements, the claims are of the same or similar scope. Applicant is also required to submit a claims correspondence table in English. The claims correspondence table must indicate how all the claims in the U.S. application correspond to the allowable claims in the IPAU application(s).

(4) Examination of the U.S. application for which participation in the PPH pilot program is requested has not begun.

(5) Applicant must file a request for participation in the PPH pilot program and a petition to make the U.S. application special under the PPH pilot program. A sample request/petition form (PTO/SB/20AU) is available from the USPTO web site at <http://www.uspto.gov> on April 14, 2008. Applicants are encouraged to use the USPTO request/petition form. A petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(h) for the petition to make special under 37 CFR 1.102(d) is required and must be submitted.

(6) Applicant must submit a copy of all the office actions (which are relevant to patentability) from each of the IPAU application(s) containing the allowable claims that are the basis for the request. In addition, applicant must submit copies of any office actions (which are relevant to patentability) from the IPAU application(s) issued after the grant of the request for participation in the PPH pilot program in the USPTO (especially where IPAU might have reversed a prior holding of allowability).

(7) Applicant must submit an information disclosure statement (IDS) listing the documents cited by the IPAU examiner in the IPAU office action (unless such an IDS has already been filed in the U.S. application). Applicant must submit copies of all the documents cited in the IPAU office action (unless the copies have already been filed in the U.S. application) except U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications.

The request for participation in the PPH pilot program and all the supporting documents must be submitted to the USPTO via EFS-Web and indexed with the following document description: "Petition to make special under Patent Pros Hwy." Information regarding EFS-Web is available at http://www.ustpo.gov/ebs/efs_help.html. Any preliminary amendments and IDS submitted with the PPH documents must be separately indexed as a preliminary amendment and IDS, respectively.

Where the request for participation in the PPH pilot program and special status are granted, applicant will be notified and the U.S. application will be advanced out of turn for examination. In those instances where the request for participation in the PPH pilot program does not meet all the requirements set forth above, applicant will be notified and the defects in the request will be identified. Applicant will be given one opportunity to perfect the request in a renewed request for participation (which must be submitted via EFS-Web and indexed accordingly as noted above). Note that action on the application by the examiner will NOT be suspended (37 CFR 1.103) awaiting a reply by the applicant to perfect the request in a renewed request for participation. That is, if the application is picked up for examination by the examiner after applicant has been notified of the defects in the request, any renewed request will be dismissed. If the renewed request is perfected and examination has not begun, the request and special status will be granted, applicant will be notified and the U.S. application will be advanced out of turn for examination. If not perfected, applicant will be notified and the application will await action in its regular turn.

(8) Request for participation in the PPH pilot program and special status granted in a parent application will not carry over to a continuing application. Continuing applications must separately fulfill the conditions set forth above.

If any of the documents identified in items (2), (6) and (7) above have already been filed in the U.S. application prior to the request for participation in the PPH pilot program, it will not be necessary for applicant to resubmit these documents with the request for participation. Applicant may simply refer to these documents and indicate in the request for participation in the PPH pilot program when these documents were previously filed in the U.S. application.

C. Special Examining Procedures

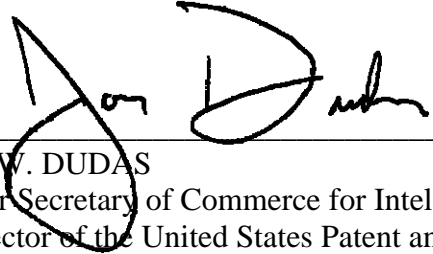
Once the request for participation in the PPH pilot program and special status have been granted to the U.S. application, the U.S. application will be taken up for examination by the U.S. examiner before all other categories of applications except those clearly in condition for allowance, those with set time limits, such as examiner's answers, and those that have been granted special status for "accelerated examination."

Any claims amended or added after the grant of the request for participation in the PPH pilot program must sufficiently correspond to one or more allowable claims in the IPAU application(s). Applicant is required to submit a claims correspondence table along with the amendment (see B.(3) above). If the amended or newly added claims do not sufficiently correspond to the allowable claims in the IPAU application(s), the amendment will not be entered and will be treated as a non-responsive reply.

The PPH program does not absolve applicants of all their duties under 37 CFR 1.56 and 37 CFR 10.18. By complying with requirements B.(6) and B.(7) identified above, applicants would be considered to have complied with their duties to bring to the attention of the USPTO any material prior art cited in the corresponding foreign application(s) (see MPEP § 2001.06(a)). Applicants still have a duty of candor and good faith, including providing to the USPTO other information known to them to be material to patentability.

Any inquiries concerning this notice may be directed to Magdalen Greenlief, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy at 571-272-8800 or at magdalen.greenlief@uspto.gov.

Date: 3/31/08



JON W. DUDAS
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office